

# A Cross-Country System Reports on Drug Abuse

The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN), a data-collecting system sponsored jointly by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in DHEW's Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration and the Justice Department's Drug Enforcement Administration, is the largest national drug abuse indicator system in the world. An article on pages 395-402 explains how DAWN works.

On this page, I would like to report on some of the findings of Project DAWN III, the third report to be made since the network was established in 1972. Like its predecessors, DAWN III delineates patterns of drug abuse in 29 major population centers, using data furnished by hospital emergency rooms, inpatient units, medical examiner reports on causes of deaths, and crisis centers. "Mentions" of any and all drugs involved in a particular drug crisis episode are the data on which patterns of use are based.

In the first 2 years of DAWN reporting, April 1972 to April 1974, the drug most frequently mentioned was the tranquilizer diazepam (Valium), the drug most commonly prescribed by American physicians. In April 1975, an apparent increase in drinking brought alcohol near the top of the DAWN list—a cause for even greater concern when one considers that in the DAWN system, alcohol is not reported when it is the sole cause of discomfort, alarm, or death, but only when it has been used along with another drug.

After Valium and alcohol-in-combination came heroin, marijuana, and aspirin. Also among the 10 most

frequently mentioned drugs were LSD, secobarbital, and methadone, the synthetic narcotic often given in controlled doses to addicts who have withdrawn from heroin. Nearly half the drug-related deaths reported by medical examiners were caused by barbiturates (19 percent) or opiates, chiefly heroin (28 percent).

The majority of drug abusers in the study were in their teens or twenties. Whites were mentioned 76 percent of the time, and blacks 21 percent. More deaths of males than females were reported in medical examiner reports and, in the crisis centers, male contacts outnumbered female contacts, while the reverse was true in hospital emergency rooms.

Whatever its limitations or duplications, the DAWN study is provocative and important for those of us concerned with drug abuse and alcohol abuse. It has already affected Federal drug enforcement priorities. It also suggests trends and developing problems, thus serving as a guide for the allocation of treatment resources and preparations to meet future needs.

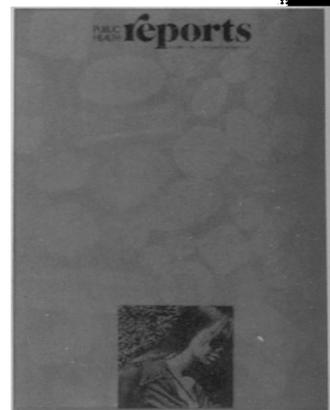
And the study illustrates and reinforces once again the close ties and interdependence that exist among the three components of the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration—the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Institute of Mental Health.



James D. Isbister  
Administrator

Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and  
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**Cover**—Some of the drugs currently abused in the United States are depicted on the cover. Monitoring the patterns of drug abuse in 29 Metropolitan Statistical Areas is the Drug Abuse Warning System, sponsored jointly by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The data collection system and how it operates are described in the lead article in this issue.



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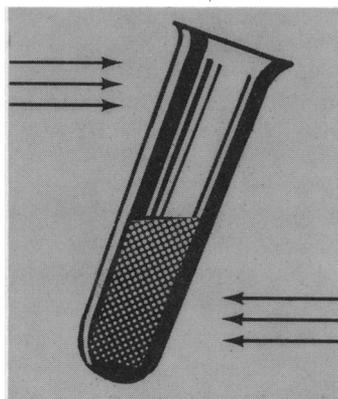
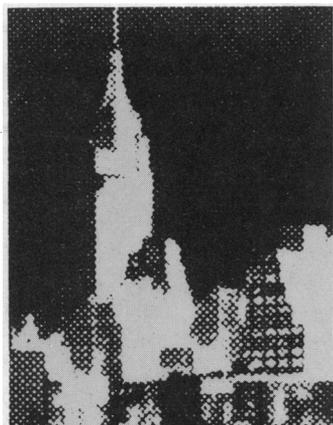
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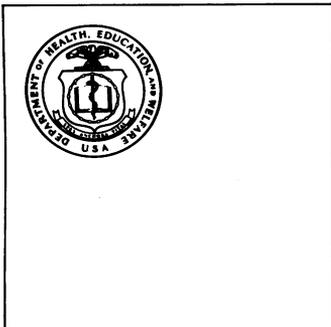
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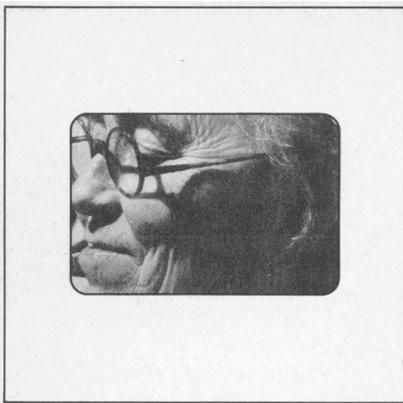
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
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### Audiovisual Training Package on Relating to Older People

■ A tool for changing attitudes about the treatment of older Americans has just become available to hospitals and nursing homes through the cooperative efforts of the Veterans Administration, the Public Health Service, and the American Hospital Association.

"This Way To Reality" is a complete audiovisual training package for teaching the ways of relating to older people that have proved effective at VA hospitals and nursing homes. Introduced by a team headed by Dr. James C. Folsom at the Topeka VA hospital, the treatment technique is credited with reversing and preventing the major part of the senility that results from psychological effects rather than from brain deterioration.

Although the audiovisuals in the package are designed for training hospital and nursing home staff in reality orientation, they could have wide application for informing families and community groups in plain English about "adding life to years." In the foreword to the series, Dr. Donald W. Hammersley, deputy medical director of the American Psychiatric Association, says: "Reality orientation has relevance and potential application wherever you find older people, or the not too old, suffering from confusion and faulty memory. It is one basic building block of care that the staff of any organized care setting should be able to apply."

The training package, which consists of color slides and cassettes, with a coordinated booklet, is available from the National Audiovisual Center, GSA, Washington, D.C., 20409, at \$112.

## Twelve Fellowships Available for Health Care Projects

■ Twelve 6-month fellowships of \$9,000 each for problem-solving projects directed toward improving the organization and delivery of health care will be awarded in 1977 by the Hospital Research and Educational Trust, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association. Two of the fellowships are supported by a memorial fund established in honor of Edwin L. Crosby, who headed both the trust and the association from 1954 until his death in 1972. Ten are supported by a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Among the criteria for selection of recipients will be the quality, timeliness, and potential usefulness of the proposed project and the background and potential of the candidate as an administrator of a health care insti-

tution or related organization or as a teacher or investigator with a primary interest in the improvement of health care management. Part or all of the award may be allocated to a stipend for a fellow or to project costs for such activities as data collection and travel.

The deadline for receipt of applications is December 15, 1976. Awards will be announced March 15, 1977. Fellows may begin their projects as early as April 1, 1977, and must begin them no later than September 30, 1977.

For application forms and further information, write to Director, Hospital Research and Educational Trust, 840 North Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

## education notes

**Independent study program for mental health administrators.** The first independent study program in the country for mental health administrators has been established under the program in hospital and health care administration of the University of Minnesota. It will give practicing mental health administrators an alternative to full-time on-campus study. A residential oncampus session lasting 2 weeks will introduce each of three 1-year courses; a 1-week oncampus session will conclude each course. In addition, the courses will include monthly student-preceptor dialogs, regional workshops, and monthly unit lessons.

Graduate credits (15 credits each for the first 2 years and 25 credits for the 3d year) can be applied towards a master's degree in hospital and health care administration. Further information about the mental health administrator course is available from Mental Health Administration Training, University of Minnesota, 2829 University Ave., SE., Suite 332, Minneapolis, Minn. 55414.

**Seminar on design of waste treatment operations and processes.** A seminar on "Process Design in Water Quality Engineering: New Concepts and Developments" is to be held in Nashville, Tenn., November 8-12, 1976. Its purpose is to provide participants with the most up-to-date procedures for the design of the unit operations and the processes currently used in waste treatment schemes. These procedures are to be presented in sufficient detail so that they can be put into practice immediately in producing or reviewing actual designs.

The seminar is sponsored by the Environmental and Water Resources Engineering Program and Environmental Engineering Continuing Education at Vanderbilt University. The registration fee is \$350, which includes all pre-printed material.

\* \* \*

For further information, contact Professor W. Wesley Eckenfelder, Jr., Vanderbilt University, Box 6222, Station B, Nashville, Tenn. 37235.

## FEDERAL

Long-Term Care Research. Program solicitation. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-3147*. 1976; 12 pages.

Drug Utilization Review in Skilled Nursing Facilities. A manual system for performing sample studies of drug utilization. By Hugh F. Kabat, PhD, Samuel W. Kidder, PharmD, MPH, James K. Marttila, PharmD, and Jesse E. Stewart, PhD. *DHEW Publication No. (HSA) 76-3002*. November 1975; 125 pages.

The Maternity and Infant Care Projects. Reducing risks for mothers and babies. *DHEW Publication No. (HSA) 75-5012*. 1975; 18 pages; 65 cents.

Regulations for the Administration and Enforcement of the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act of 1968. *DHEW Publication No. (FDA) 76-8035*. January 1976; 58 pages; 60 cents (supersedes *DHEW Publication (FDA) 75-8003*).

A Review of Biological Effects and Potential Risks Associated With Ultraviolet Radiation as Used in Dentistry. *DHEW Publication No. (FDA) 76-8021*. October 1975; 27 pages.

The Use of Electron Linear Accelerators in Medical Radiation Therapy: Physical Characteristics. (Overview Report No. 1) *DHEW Publication (FDA) 76-8027*. February 1976; 97 pages.

Applications of Iodine-123 in Nuclear Medicine. Proceedings of a conference held in Rockville, Maryland, May 19-20, 1975. *DHEW Publication No. (FDA) 76-8033*. March 1976; 139 pages; \$2.10.

7th Annual National Conference on Radiation Control. Assuring Radiation Protection, April 27-May 2, 1975. *DHEW Publication No. (FDA) 76-8026*. February 1976; 308 pages; \$4.40.

Diabetes Mellitus. The John E. Fogarty

International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences. Edited by Stefan S. Fajans, MD. *DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 76-854*. 1976; 36 pages.

Teaching of Chronic Illness and Aging. A conference sponsored by the John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. Vol. 2. Edited by Duncan W. Clark, MD, and T. Franklin Williams, MD. *DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 75-876*. 1976; 132 pages; \$5.85.

Public Health Planning in the USSR. By A. P. Zhuk. Translated from the Russian language and reproduced in limited quantities by the Geographic Health Studies Program of the John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences. *DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 76-999*. 1976; 273 pages.

Community Medicine in England and Scotland. An evolving specialty and its relationship to the reorganization of the National Health Service. By Alonzo S. Yerby, MD. *DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 76-1061*. 1976; 80 pages.

Quality Control in the Hospital Discharge Survey. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1342, Series 2, No. 68*. December 1975; 41 pages; \$1.50.

Persons With Impaired Hearing, United States, 1971. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1528, Series 10, No. 101*. November 1975; 43 pages; \$1.10.

Family Out-of-Pocket Health Expenses, United States, 1970. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1530, Series 10, No. 103*. December 1975; 61 pages; \$1.70.

Inpatient Utilization of Short-Stay Hospitals by Diagnosis, United States, 1972. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1771, Series 13, No. 20*. November 1975; 66 pages; \$1.80.

Selected Operating and Financial Characteristics of Nursing Homes, United States: 1973-74 National Nursing Home Survey. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1773, Series 13, No. 22*. December 1975; 66 pages; \$1.80.

Inpatient Health Facilities as Reported From the 1973 MFI Survey. *DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 76-1811, Series 14, No. 16*. May 1976; 66 pages; \$1.30.

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The preceding Federal publications are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Orders should be accompanied by check or money order and should fully identify the publication. (Publications without prices may be obtained from the agency.)

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## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Food and Nutrition Strategies in National Development. Ninth report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition. *WHO Technical Report Series No. 584*. *FAO Nutrition Meetings Report Series No. 56*. 1976; 64 pages; Geneva.

Resistance of Vectors and Reservoirs of Disease to Pesticides. Twenty-second report of the WHO Expert Committee on Insecticides. *WHO Technical Report Series No. 585*. 1976; 88 pages; Geneva.

Health Hazards From New Environmental Pollutants. Report of a WHO Study Group. *WHO Technical Report Series No. 586*. 1976; 96 pages; Geneva.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis Control. Report of a WHO Study Group. *WHO Technical Report Series No. 588*. 1976; 29 pages; Geneva.

Health Economics. Report on a WHO Interregional Seminar 1975; 44 pages; Geneva.

Basic Documents. Twenty-sixth edition,

including amendments adopted up to February 1976. 1976; 163 pages; Geneva.

Health Aspects of Human Rights With Special Reference to Developments in Biology and Medicine. 1976; 48 pages; Geneva.

Mental Health Services in Europe. A review of data collected in response to a WHO questionnaire. WHO Offset Publication No. 23, 1976; 59 pages; Geneva.

Female Sterilization: Guidelines for the Development of Services. WHO Offset Publication No. 26. 1976; 27 pages; Geneva.

Housing, the Housing Environment, and Health. An annotated bibliography. By A. E. Martin in cooperation with F. Kaloyanova and S. Maziarka. WHO Offset Publication No. 27. 1976; 113 pages; Geneva.

World Health Statistics Annual, 1972. Vol. III. Health Personnel and Hospital Establishments. 1976; 243 pages; Geneva.

The Work of WHO, 1975. Annual Report of the Director-General to the World Health Assembly and to the United Nations. Official Records of the World Health Organization No. 299, 1976; 363 pages; Geneva.

Financial Report, 1 January-31 December 1975, Supplement to the Annual Report of the Director-General for 1975 and Report of the External Auditor to the World Health Assembly. Official Records of the World Health Organization No. 230. 1976; 126 pages; Geneva.

Executive Board, Fifty-seventh Session, Geneva, 14-30 January 1976. Part I. Resolutions, Annexes; Part II. Report

on the Proposed Programme Budget for 1976-1977 (Financial Year 1977). Official Records of the World Health Organization No. 231. 1976; 272 pages; Geneva.

Executive Board Fifty-seventh Session, Geneva, 14-30 January 1976. Part III. Summary Records. Official Records of the World Health Organization No. 232. 1976; 388 pages; Geneva.

WHO publications may be obtained from Q Corp., 49 Sheridan Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210.

NONFEDERAL

Protecting Yourself From Prostate Problems. By Arthur S. Freese. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 532. January 1976; 20 pages; 35 cents. Public Affairs Pamphlets, 381 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

How Weather and Climate Affect you. By Theodore Irwin. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 533. February 1976; 28 pages; 35 cents. 381 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Freedom to Die: Moral and Legal Aspects of Euthanasia. By O. Ruth Russell. 1976; 334 pages; \$1.95. Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 245 E. 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Aging in America. Readings in Social Gerontology. By Cary S. Kart and Barbara B. Manard. 1976; 598 pages; \$8.95. Alfred Publishing Co., Inc., 75 Channel Dr., Port Washington, N.Y. 10050.

Toward Improving the Outcome of Pregnancy. Recommendations for the Regional Development of Maternal and Perinatal Health Services, Committee on Perinatal Health. 1976; 38 pages.

The National Foundation-March of Dimes, 1275 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10605.

Report of the Council for Tobacco Research-U.S.A., Inc., 1975. 1976; 84 pages. The Council for Tobacco Research-U.S.A., Inc., 110 E. 59th St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Handbook and Directory of Nursing Homes and Other Facilities for the Aged Within a 50-Mile Radius of New York City (includes New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut). Edited by Judith Eckman and Walter Furman. 1976; 448 pages. Basic Books, Inc., Publisher, New York.

The Health Care Dilemma. Second Edition. By Aubrey C. McTaggart and Lorna M. McTaggart. 1976; 374 pages. Holbrook Press, Inc., Boston, Mass.

World Population Growth and Response, 1965-1975. A decade of global action. April 1976; 271 pages; \$4. Population Reference Bureau, Inc., 1754 N St., NW., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Readings in Mental Health Education. Selected Articles from School Health Review/Health Education: Volumes I-VI, 1970-75. 1976; 124 pages; \$4.50. American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, 1201 Sixteenth St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Coverage and Utilization of Care for Mental Conditions Under Health Insurance-Variou Studies, 1973-1974. By Louis S. Reed, Ph.D. 1975; 80 pages; \$4. American Psychiatric Association, 1700 Eighteenth St., NW., Washington, D.C. 20009.

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